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RURAL AREAS
DEVELOPMENT

NEWSLETTER

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OCT 2 - 1967

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

October 1967

NO. 88

CO-OP TO HELP FARMERS INCREASE INCOME

Two years ago, the Spanish American and Indian farmers of Penasco Valley in New Mexico were unable to compete with larger growers for top prices and had drifted into submarginal farming.

For livestock, their major income source, the closest market was 65 miles away.

Then, with Extension Service help, they formed an area development cooperative. Today they have a new livestock program and plan to build a marketing facility. They expect to gain \$100,000 a year from better prices and lower marketing costs, and another \$150,000 a year from better livestock and less loss under the new program.



The farmers worked out a step-by-step, sound development program and "sold it" to the Taos County Development Association, the county commissioner, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and to other local people.

They got technical assistance or aid from Technical Action Panel members--Farmers Home Administration, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service.

With a \$12,000 economic development grant and \$3,000 to be contributed by local people, the co-op plans to build the marketing facility on land leased from the Indian Pueblo.

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NEW COOPERATIVE PLANTS BRING DOLLARS TO RURAL AREAS



Farmer cooperatives across the nation report new investments of about \$95 million for facilities outside metropolitan areas, as of mid-1967. The co-ops are investing an additional \$35 million in 10 new plants in metropolitan areas.

Expansions reported by cooperatives include four multi-million dollar fertilizer plants and 13 cooperative feed mills valued at \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Processing plants for soybeans, peanuts, and corn are costing an estimated \$6 million. Additional installations include feed lots and expansion of processing facilities for poultry and other farm products.

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TWO RURAL CITIES FIND SUCCESS IN GOING HALFWAY

In 1940, Winfield and Arkansas City, Kansas, each voted \$90,000 to build an airport halfway between them. But then came World War II, and the Federal Government leased the land for \$1 a month for an Army Air Corps training center.



This turned out to be a break, because in 1946 the Government returned the land to the two cities--complete with buildings and runways.

Later, when a commercial airline discontinued service, Winfield and Arkansas City were faced with the problem of doing something with a mass of buildings and three runways more than 5,000 feet long.

They turned the field into Strother Field Airport Industrial Park--now a complex of eight industries and two flying services, with more than 1,100 employees.

Winfield and Arkansas City now are faced with housing more and more employees and providing schools for their children.

The field, jointly owned and administered by both cities, has accounted for a steadily rising population and economic success of retail trade in the area.

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COOPERATION, AND SCALE REPLICA SAVE TOWN \$\$\$\$\$

Cooperation and a scale replica of part of a creek under study, complete with bridges, roads, and other structures, helped solve a town's flood problem and saved the community \$21,500.

El Reno, Oklahoma, is on the banks of Four Mile Creek, which has a history of flooding. In 1953, flood damage to El Reno homes, streets, and business property was estimated at \$250,000.



The town applied for help through Public Law 566, an act that authorizes USDA support of watershed programs other than those of individual farmers.

Soil Conservation Service specialists submitted an initial channel im-

provement proposal. But they were faced with special problems. The creek channel is bordered by homes, streets, and railroad property. The main channel and a tributary meet in a pattern of sharp bends. Trestle bridges and an exposed sewer pipe cross the channel. These conditions made it difficult to predict the hydraulic performance of the proposed improvements.

So SCS, Agricultural Research Service, and the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station joined to find out how well the initial plan would work.

By building a scale model to check the water flow, points of flow reversal and stagnation, and making adjustments to improve the design, they learned the channel improvements could be made with less work than was originally believed, and that the improved design would cost the town \$21,500 less than the original proposal.

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WATER SYSTEM ATTRACTS PAPER PLANT

A new water system at Beech Island, South Carolina, has attracted a paper plant which is expected to employ 800 people when completed.

Before installation of the water system, shallow individual wells were the only source of water for about 40 farms and 180 other homes in Beech Island, an unincorporated, rural community in Aiken County.



Last year, the Farmers Home Administration made a loan of \$235,000 to build a water system for the community. The water system attracted the Kimberly-Clark Corporation, which is now employing large construction crews to build its new plant.

And this year FHA granted an additional \$41,500 loan to Beech Island's Rural Community Water District to expand the system to supply water to the paper plant.

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GREENSPAN FIRSTS FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND SOUTH DAKOTA

The broad application of the USDA Greenspan program was recently illustrated by the first Greenspan agreements announced in Pennsylvania and in South Dakota.



The South Dakota project assisted the city of Sioux Falls in purchasing cropland for expansion of its well field to prevent pollution of the city water supply and provide sites for future wells.

Pennsylvania's first Greenspan project included plans for an 18-hole golf course, areas for picnicking, and a pond for fishing, ice skating, and tobogganing.

Greenspan aid, part of the USDA program to shift land out of crops in plentiful supply and into public recreation and open space, may amount to as much as 50 percent of the value of the cropland involved in a particular project.

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SCHOOLS HAVE NO KITCHENS, BUT CHILDREN GET LUNCHES

Some 265 boys and girls in Jackson County, Tennessee, are getting school lunches--even though their six schools do not have kitchens.

Food for the six small schools is cooked in a church kitchen--as far as 65 miles away. A staff of three cooks, two high school students, and a delivery man make sure the lunches get to the schools, only one of which has more than two rooms. The food is packed in insulated containers to keep the food hot and milk cold.



Many of the children in the schools are from families with incomes of less than \$2,000 a year. Normally they wouldn't be able to afford lunch, but the lunches they get. The National School Lunch Program serves all students, regardless of whether they can pay.

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RECREATION IS BROUGHT TO THE NATION'S WATERSHEDS

At last count 116 watershed projects in 33 States had 136 recreational developments underway. When completed, they will provide about 8 million user-days of fishing, boating, and swimming. Over the next 5 years the land around some 85 reservoirs will be developed for public recreational use.



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